

## **REMARKS**

Claims 2, 8-10, 14, 15 and 17 have been amended. Claim 1 has been cancelled. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this application and other applications. Claims 2-23 are pending in this application. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 19-23.

Claims 9 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 9 has been amended to remove the limitation "the fins." With respect to claim 18, the antecedent basis for the limitation "the brush" in line 3 can be found in line 1, which recites "wherein the applicator includes a brush." Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

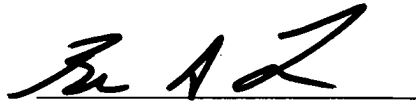
Claims 1, 8, 9 14, 15 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Schmalling (U.S. Patent No. 5,006,194). Claims 10-13, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmalling in view of O'Dea et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,007,371). Claims 2-7 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. As noted by the Office Action, claim 2 as amended should now be allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 3-14, dependent upon claim 2, are allowable along with claim 2 and on their own merits.

Claim 15 has been amended to include limitations substantially similar to those of claim 2. For the same reasons claim 2 is allowable over the prior art of record, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 15 is allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 16-18, dependent upon claim 15, are allowable along with claim 15 and on their own merits.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this case are in a condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. A. Lemm', is written over a horizontal line.

Brian A. Lemm  
Reg. No. 43,748  
Attorney for Applicant  
Telephone (203) 924-3836

PITNEY BOWES INC.  
Intellectual Property and  
Technology Law Department  
35 Waterview Drive  
P.O. Box 3000  
Shelton, CT 06484-8000